



## STATUETTE OF PTAH

Egypt  
Late Dynastic Period, 663-341 BC  
Bronze, hollow cast with blackened patina and incised details  
Height 13 cm

The anthropomorphic god is depicted wrapped in a tight-fitting high-collared garment with a tassel. The protruding hands are placed on his chest right above left. Ptah is wearing a tight fitted skull cap and a straight beard on his chin. He is holding the Was-sceptre in front of his body identifying him as Ptah, Creator-God of Memphis. A multi-stranded broad collar hangs across his chest.

The usual iconography of Ptah was established by the Dynasty I on a calcite bowl from Tarkhan. Throughout the Egyptian civilisation Ptah is unmistakable on tomb or temple walls: his head enveloped in a tightly fitting skull cap that leaves only his face and ears in view. His forearms emerge from a linen wrap that moulds itself closely to his form permitting no differentiation of his limbs. The tassel from his collar is sometimes taking the form of the counterpoise of a necklace. His hands hold the Was-sceptre of power or dominion. From the Middle Kingdom onwards Ptah was portrayed with a straight beard.

### PROVENANCE

Former private collection France, acquired from Roger Khawam Paris and hence by descent

### LITERATURE

G. Roeder: *Ägyptische Bronzefiguren*, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Berlin 1956  
S. Schoske und D. Wildung: *Gott und Götter im Alten Ägypten*, Mainz 1992